

MAR 13 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

OPPOSING THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing - also known as "fracking"-is
2 a technique used in "enhanced geothermal systems" or "engineered
3 geothermal systems" to generate geothermal energy; and
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5 WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing involves drilling wells into
6 the ground and injecting a fluid into the rock to fracture the
7 rock; and
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9 WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing can result in potentially
10 adverse impacts to the environment, including:
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12 (1) Stress on surface water and ground water supplies from
13 the withdrawal of large volumes of water used in
14 drilling and hydraulic fracturing;
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16 (2) Contamination of underground sources of drinking water
17 and surface waters resulting from spills, faulty well
18 construction, or by other means related to the
19 hydraulic fracturing process;
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21 (3) Adverse impacts from the discharge of waste water from
22 hydraulic fracturing into surface waters or into
23 underground injection wells; and
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25 (4) Air pollution resulting from the release of volatile
26 organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and
27 greenhouse gases from the hydraulic fracturing
28 process; and
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30 WHEREAS, a recent study has raised questions about whether
31 there is a link between hydraulic fracturing and earthquakes;
32 and
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34 WHEREAS, Hawaii is presently being assessed as a potential
35 site for "enhanced geothermal systems" or "engineered geothermal
36 systems" using hydraulic fracturing techniques; and
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1 WHEREAS, it is not clear whether present statutes and
2 regulations adequately protect against the potentially adverse
3 impacts of hydraulic fracturing; and
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5 WHEREAS, it would be useful to potential geothermal
6 developers to know which technologies will be acceptable in
7 Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, a proactive approach should be taken to safeguard
10 the people of Hawaii, the environment, and Hawaii's natural
11 resources by opposing the use of hydraulic fracturing; now,
12 therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
16 that this body opposes the use of hydraulic fracturing in
17 Hawaii; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
21 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Health; and
22 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:








